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UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000397

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/NCE VALERIE LYNN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: RESIGNATION OF THE SLOVAK MINISTER OF CULTURE COMES INTO FORCE

1. Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic has accepted the resignation of the Minister of Culture Rudolf Chmel. The President's decision becomes effective today, May 24. Until a new Minister is appointed, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ivan Miklos will be temporarily in charge of the Culture Ministry.

2. It is expected that the new Minister of Culture will be appointed in the near future. The coalition party Alliance of New Citizen (ANO) nominated Frantisek Toth, the current Ministry of Education State Secretary, for this position.

HURLBERT

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